

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 MCT-01 SY-05 FBIE-00 USSS-00 A-01
OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 /089 W
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R 271052Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 02926

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SHUM IR
SUBJ: LOW-LEVEL DEMONSTRATIONS: TERRORIST SHOT

SUMMARY: THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN QOM AND JAHROM OVER IRANIAN NEW YEAR'S PERIOD. NUMBER OF PRISONERS MAY BE ENGAGING IN HUNGAR STRIKE AT QASR PRISON. ONE TERRORIST KILLED IN ISFAHAN. END SUMMARY.

1. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR STORIES OF MODEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN QOM OVER PAST WEEK, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEDIA STORIES ON SUBJECT AND NO RPT NO OTHER SUBSTANTIATING INFORMATION. SOURCE WHO HAS GOOD FRIEND IN QOM SAID TWO BRANCHES OF BANK MELLI WERE VANDALIZED ABOUT MARCH 19-20. IN APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME FRAME, A MULLAH IN JAHROM, SECOND LARGEST CITY IN FARS PROVINCE REPORTEDLY GAVEN AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT SPEECH AT FUNERAL OF MULLAH WHO HAD DIED. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, MULLAH WHO GAVE TALK RETURNED HOME TO FIND HIS HOUSE SURROUNDED BY POLICE. SOURCE DID NOT KNOW IF MULLAH WAS ARRESTED OR NOT.

2. AT QASR PRISON NEAR KARAJ, SEVERAL ANTI-STATE SECURITY PRISONERS HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN ON HUNGER STRIKE SINCE MARCH 12. IN ANOTHER SECTION OF PRISON ON MARCH 15, U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSUL WHO VISITED AMCIT PRISONER SAW NOTHING. COLONEL IN CHARGE OF PRISON DID NOT MENTION STRIKE TO CONSUL AND APPEARED VERY RELAXED. (EMBASSY FOUND ABOUT ALLEGED "STRIKE" AFTER CONSUL'S VISIT.). ACCORDING TO FOREIGN JOURNALIST EYEWITNESS, THERE WERE MILD DEMONSTRATIONS OF UP TO 100 WOMEN ON MARCH 19 AND 20 NEAR PRISON, BUT NO VIOLENCE. POLICE WERE PRESENT TO KEEP ORDER. UNION OF

NATIONAL FRONT (UNF) SOURCE TOLD ANOTHER FOREIGN JOURNALIST THAT HIS GROUP HAD SENT PROTEST TELEGRAM REGARDING HUNGER STRIKE TO PRIME MINISTER ON MARCH 18, BUT THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE BY MARCH 26. UNF SOURCE SAID PRISONERS STAGING HUNGER STRIKE TO HIGHLIGHT FACT THEY WERE NOT PARDONED ALONG WITH MANY OF THEIR BROTHERS IN SUBSTANTIAL NEW YEAR'S RELEASES. (EMBASSY COMMENT: APPEARS SOME PRISONERS MAY BE FASTING. WHETHER THIS IS IN FACT CASE OR NOT, UNF COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS CLEARLY COORDINATING ACTIVITY BY PRISONERS' FAMILIES TO PRESSURE GOI FOR THEIR RELEASE.)

3. PRESS MARCH 26 REPORTED TERRORIST WHO CALLED HIMSELF FARAMARZI WAS KILLED IN SHOOTOUT AT ISFAHAN BUS STATION WHEN POLICE STARTED TO EXAMINE TWO CRATES AND OWNER OPENED FIRE ON POLICE. CRATES SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND TO CONTAIN "SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE" (NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED) A PORTABLE PRINTING PRESS, SOME AMMUNITION AND A GRENADE. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TERRORISTS, DEATHS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN02926
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780132-0967
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780321/aaaaarky.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bfab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3192058
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOW-LEVEL DEMONSTRATIONS: TERRORIST SHOT SUMMARY: THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN QOM AND JAHROM OVER IRANIAN NEW YEAR'S PERIOD. NUMBER OF P
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfab12bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014